



## **Proposed Land Acquisition/Airspace Establishment in Support of Large-Scale MAGTF Live Fire and Maneuver Training**

### **Project Update Notice Number 5—March 2010**

**Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command  
Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center  
Twentynine Palms, CA**

*The Project Update Notices offer a focused way to provide easily accessible, wide-spread distribution of new Project information. They augment the regular updating of key Project public documents carried on MCAGCC's Land Acquisition Study webpage. Please see these other Project documents for an overview and key background information.*

#### ➤ **Department of Navy Requests interim “Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation”**

- The Navy has requested the Secretary of the Interior to extend the current segregation of public lands that are being studied for potential inclusion into the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center at Twentynine Palms, CA (MCAGCC), which would be in the form of a *Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation*.
- The segregation of public lands, established September 15, 2008 for two years, prevented incompatible development or use of these public lands during the study period.
- Based on the request and the good progress reached in completing the project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Bureau of Land Management will publish a “Notice of Proposed Withdrawal and Opportunity for Public Meeting” in the Federal Register. That notice will authorize a new temporary two-year segregation of the lands being studied for possible withdrawal by USMC.
- This would allow the Department of the Navy/Marine Corps time to finish the EIS and issue a Record of Decision (ROD) on any land acquisition and airspace establishment to enable sustained, combined-arms, live-fire and maneuver Marine Expeditionary Brigade training.
- The requested *Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation* will preserve the status quo and the ability of the Congress to consider any “permanent” withdrawal request that the Navy and Marine Corps might make, if the ROD determines to acquire additional training lands at MCAGCC.
- Recreation and other uses will continue to be allowed under the *Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation* – exactly as the situation is today under the current segregative effect.
- The public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed *Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation* during a 90-day comment period and at a public meeting following the publication of the BLM *Withdrawal Notice* in the Federal Register.
- Following the 90-day public comment period, public meeting, NEPA document and mineral report preparation by BLM, a Public Land Order signed by the Secretary of the Interior and published in the Federal Register would put a *Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation* in place for a maximum of five years. This Order could be renewed, if necessary, to afford Congress more time to act on any military land withdrawal application.
- The Marine Corps and the Department of the Navy remain committed to a transparent process of analysis and will review and consider public comments received on the project.

#### ➤ **Future Significant Project Milestones:**

- Public Meeting on *Withdrawal in Aid of Legislation*, Fall 2010
- Draft EIS – November 2010
- Public Comment and Hearings on Draft EIS – Fall/Winter 2010
- Final EIS – Summer 2011
- Record of Decision – Fall 2011

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**For Further Information Please Contact**

**29Palms Training Land/Airspace Acquisition Project**

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